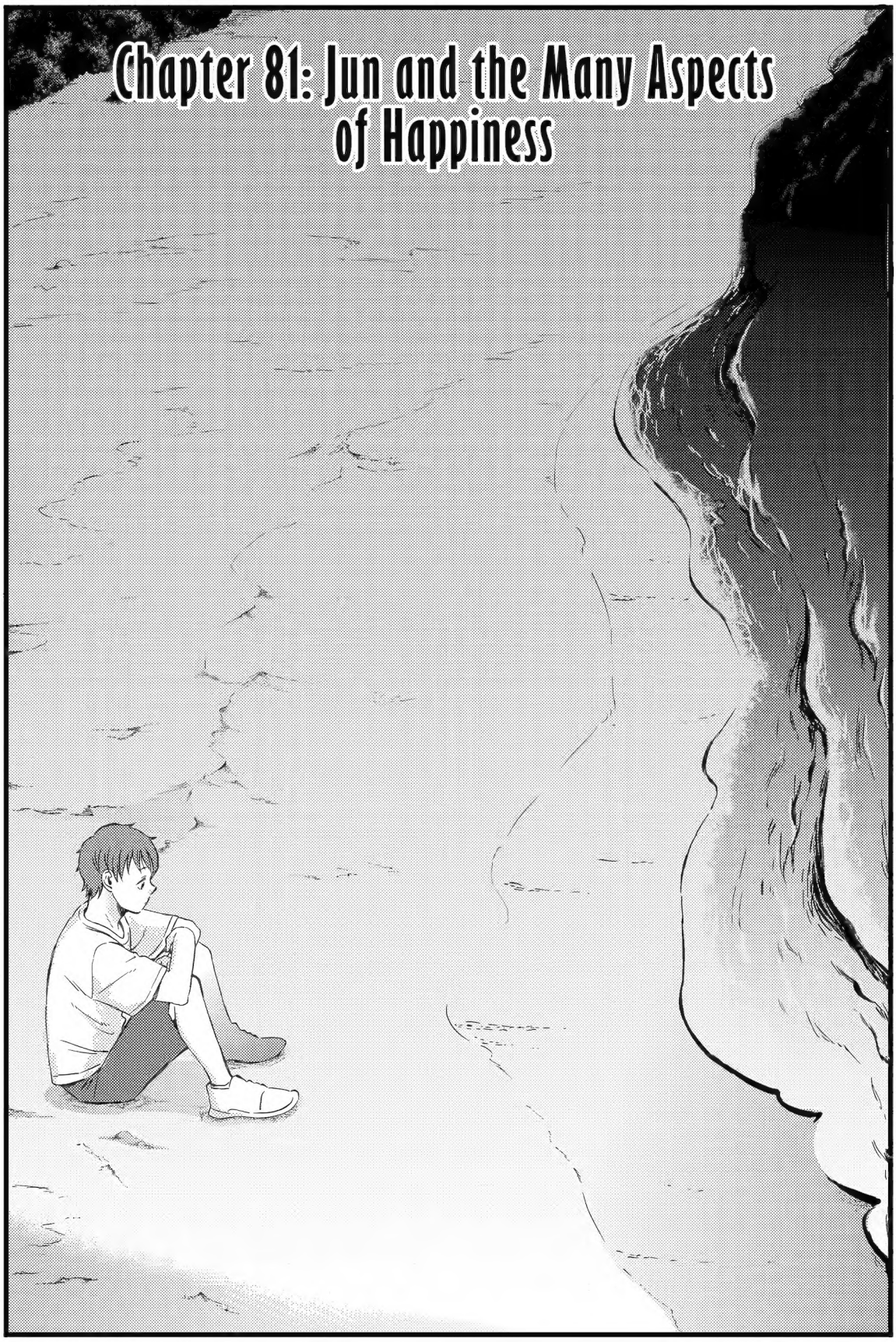
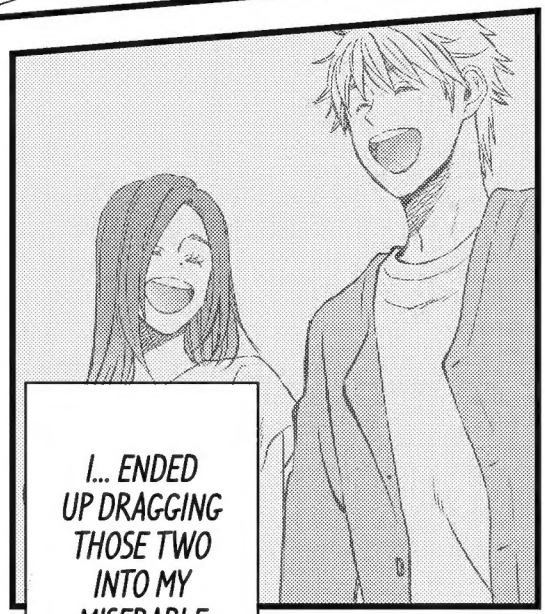

Chapter 81: Jun and the Many Aspects of Happiness

PREVI-OUSLY, ON LA LA LA...

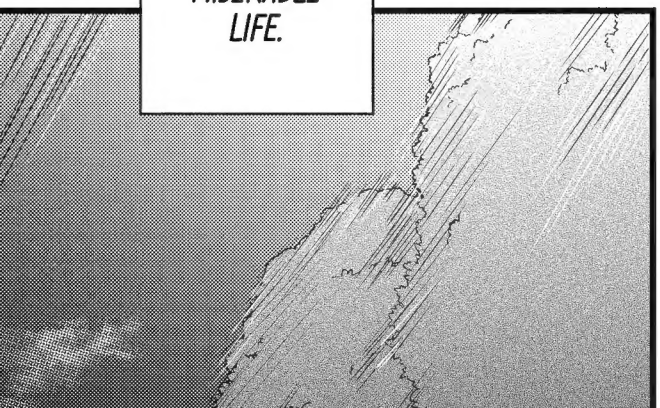
I LIKE YOU, JUN.

JUN'S FRIEND, OOSAWA-SAN, CONFESSED TO HIM. HOWEVER...

I'M SORRY... I...

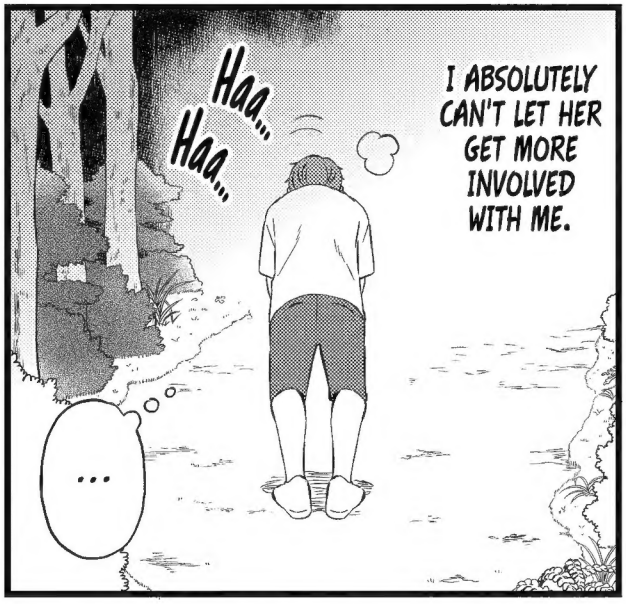


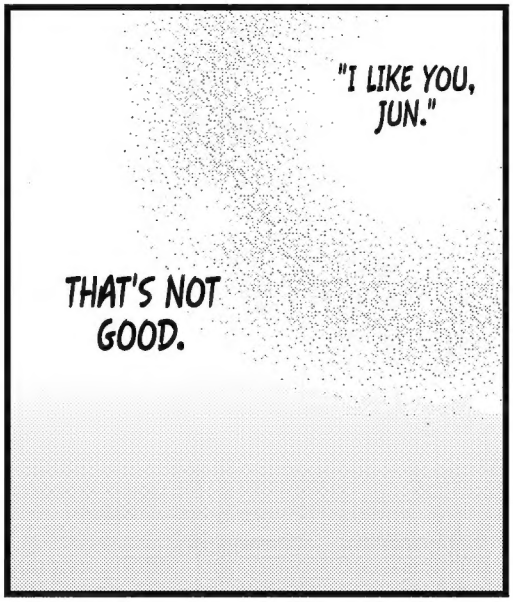
I... ENDED UP DRAGGING THOSE TWO INTO MY MISERABLE LIFE.

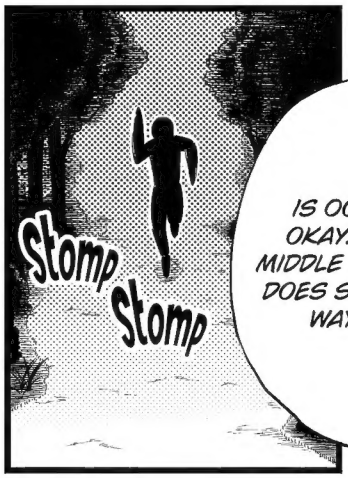


BUT...

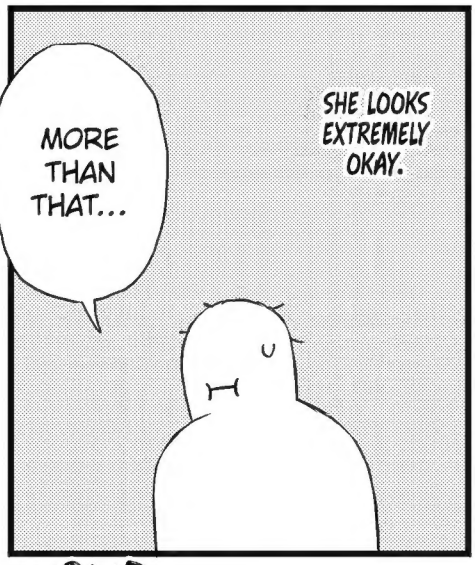
SINCE I ONLY HAVE SUPERFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY FRIENDS, I'M FINE WITH SPENDING TIME WITH THEM.
I CAN'T DRAG ANY MORE GOOD PEOPLE LIKE THEM.


Haa...
Haa...
I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T LET HER GET MORE INVOLVED WITH ME.
...


"I LIKE YOU, JUN."
THAT'S NOT GOOD.


Stomp
Stomp

IS OOSAWA-SAN OKAY...? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. DOES SHE KNOW THE WAY BACK...?
I GOT SCARED AND RAN AWAY...
Bio Warrior

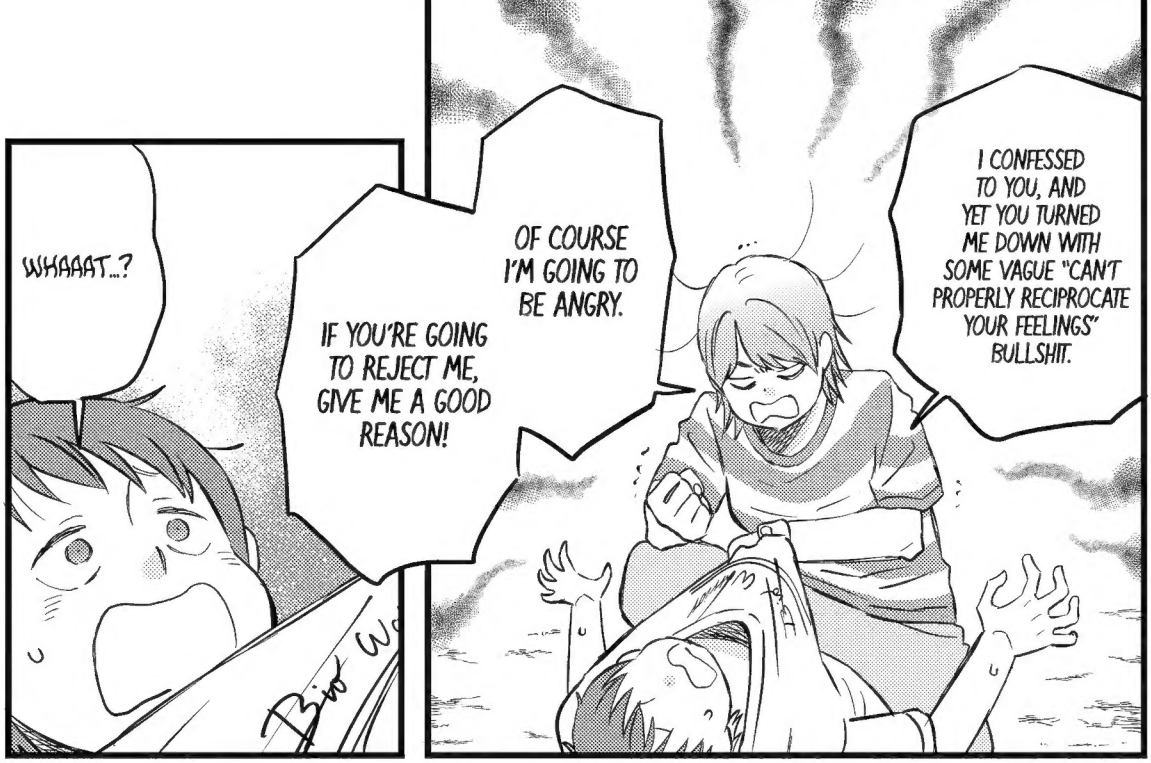

MORE THAN THAT...
SHE LOOKS EXTREMELY OKAY.

DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH

STOMP
STOMP
SHE'S TOTALLY CHASING MEEEEE!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WAIT, DAMMIIIIT!
WHAAAT...?

WAH!
Bird Warrior
Grab

W-WELL... YOU LOOK REALLY ANGRY, OOSAWA-SAN...!
I SAID WAIT! WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!!


WHAAAT...?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO REJECT ME, GIVE ME A GOOD REASON!
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO BE ANGRY.
I CONFESSED TO YOU, AND YET YOU TURNED ME DOWN WITH SOME VAGUE "CAN'T PROPERLY RECIPROCATE YOUR FEELINGS" BULLSHIT.

N-NO WAY! OF COURSE NOT...!

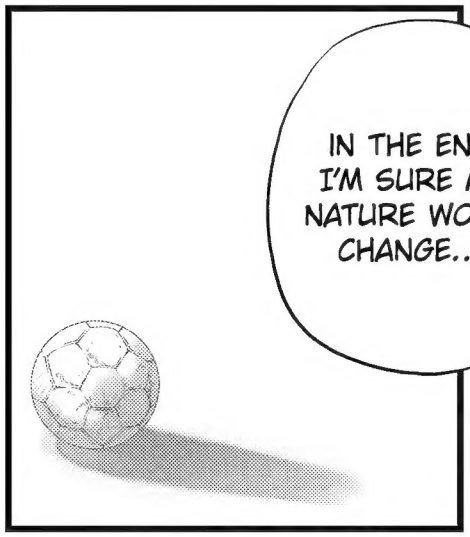
DO YOU HATE ME?

...
BUT?
Cough...
I... UM... I DO LIKE YOU, BUT...

Oops, my bad...
Cough Cough

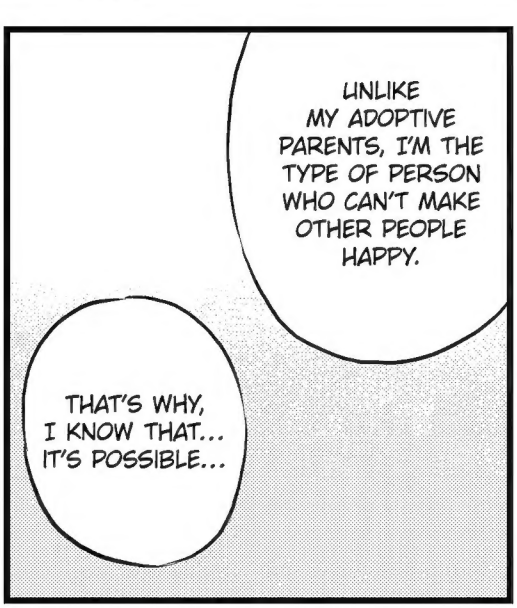
I...

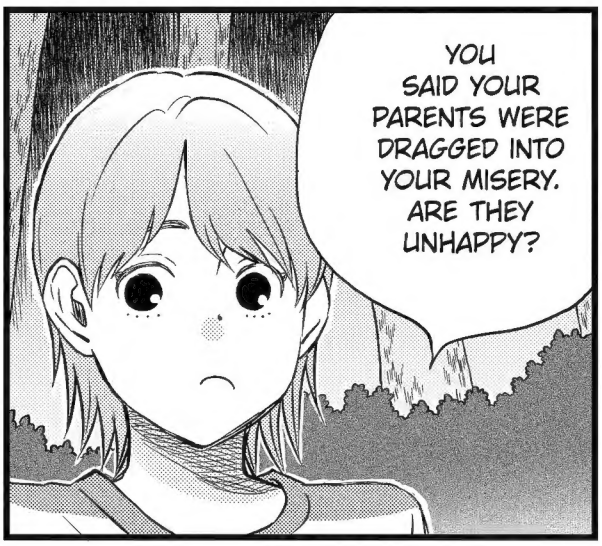
HUH?
OOSAWA-SAN... REMEMBER HOW HAPPY YOU WERE WHEN I SHOWED YOU THOSE WEDDING PHOTOS?
SO... I ASSUMED YOU WERE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO LOOKED FORWARD TO THAT SORT OF THING...


IN THE END, I'M SURE MY NATURE WON'T CHANGE...

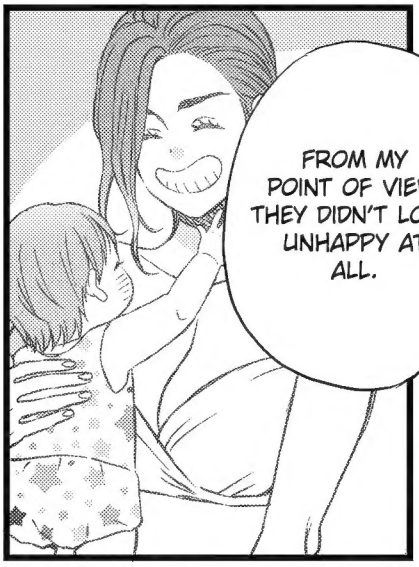
I WAS VERY LUCKY TO BE ADOPTED BY SOME INCREDIBLY GOOD PEOPLE, BUT...
I'M STILL THE KIND OF GUY WHO WAS ABANDONED BY HIS PARENTS.

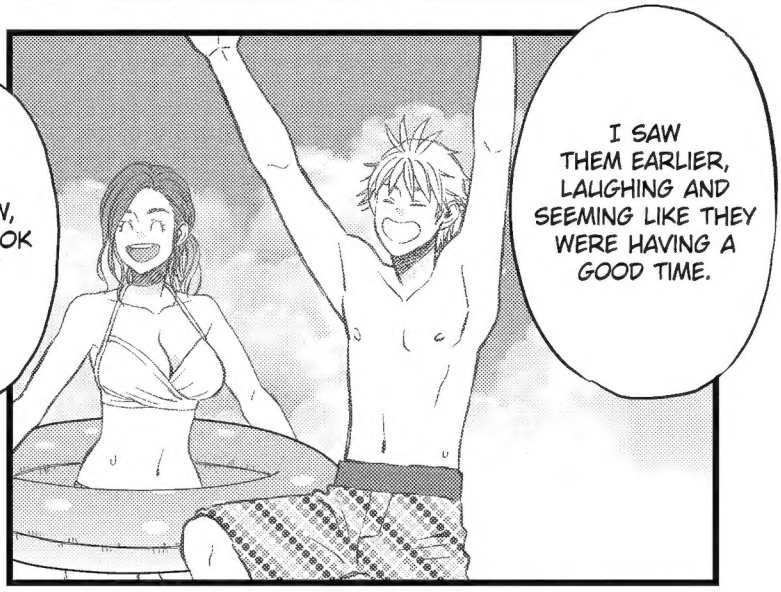
I'LL DRAG YOU INTO MY MISERY, JUST LIKE I DID TO FATHER AND MOTHER...
...

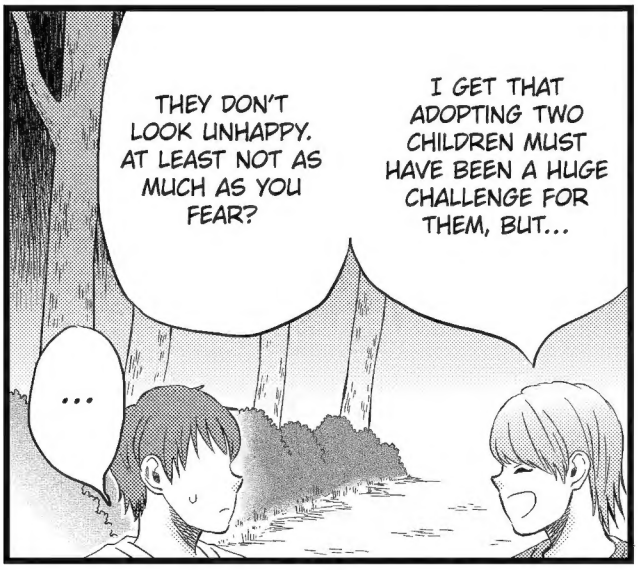

UNLIKE MY ADOPTIVE PARENTS, I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN'T MAKE OTHER PEOPLE HAPPY.
THAT'S WHY, I KNOW THAT... IT'S POSSIBLE...


YOU SAID YOUR PARENTS WERE DRAGGED INTO YOUR MISERY. ARE THEY UNHAPPY?

ARE YOU UNHAPPY NOW, JUN?
HUH?! WELL...
...NO, NOT AT ALL.


FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, THEY DIDN'T LOOK UNHAPPY AT ALL.

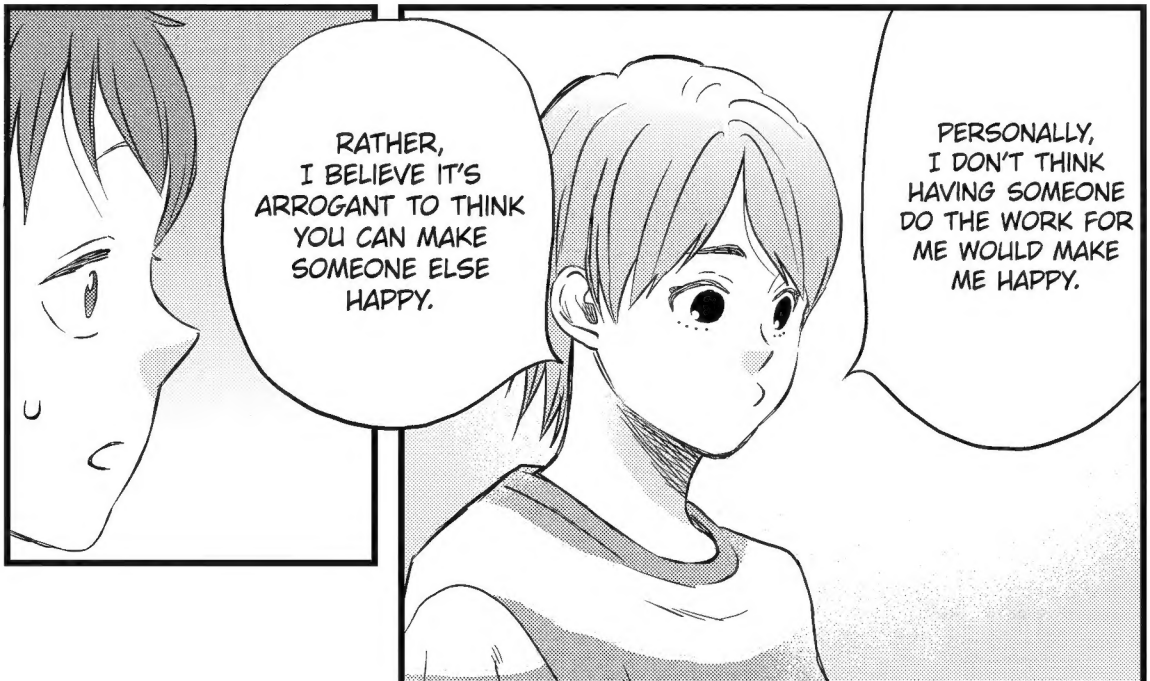

I SAW THEM EARLIER, LAUGHING AND SEEMING LIKE THEY WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME.

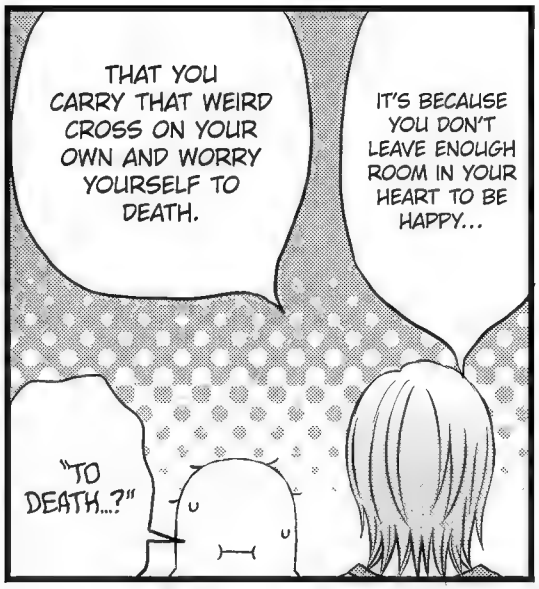

I GET THAT ADOPTING TWO CHILDREN MUST HAVE BEEN A HUGE CHALLENGE FOR THEM, BUT...
THEY DON'T LOOK UNHAPPY. AT LEAST NOT AS MUCH AS YOU FEAR?
...

B-BUT... BECAUSE OF ME, THEY EVEN HAD TO ADOPT MY SISTER...
YOUR FATHER LOVES MIU-CHAN, DOESN'T HE? I OVERHEARD HIM GUSHING ABOUT HER CUTENESS.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR OWN HAPPINESS HERE...
IN THE FIRST PLACE... HAPPINESS ISN'T SOMETHING OTHERS CAN OBTAIN FOR YOU, IS IT?
AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNOWS BEST WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY. NOT OTHER PEOPLE.

PERHAPS HAPPINESS IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO FIND BY YOURSELF.
IT MAY TURN OUT TO BE A NUISANCE INSTEAD OF A WELCOMED GIFT.
EVEN IF SOMEONE COMES TO YOU AND OFFERS YOU THEIR CONCEPT OF "HAPPINESS" NEATLY WRAPPED IN A PACKAGE...

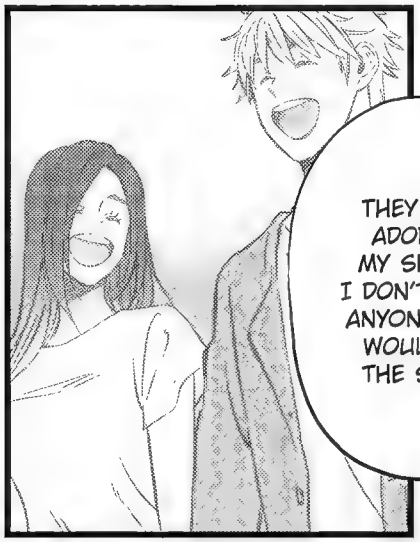

RATHER, I BELIEVE IT'S ARROGANT TO THINK YOU CAN MAKE SOMEONE ELSE HAPPY.
PERSONALLY, I DON'T THINK HAVING SOMEONE DO THE WORK FOR ME WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.

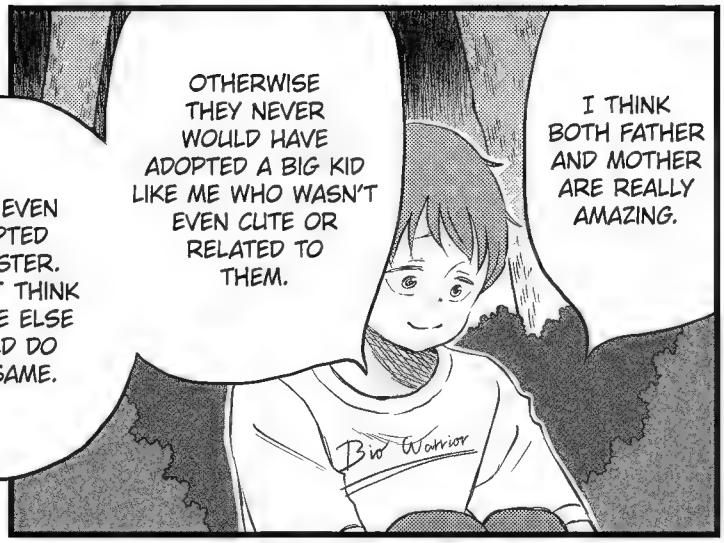

THAT YOU CARRY THAT WEIRD CROSS ON YOUR OWN AND WORRY YOURSELF TO DEATH.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T LEAVE ENOUGH ROOM IN YOUR HEART TO BE HAPPY...
"TO DEATH...?"

HUH?! I-IS THAT RIGHT...?
YOU'D BETTER CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE YOURSELF HAPPIER!
AND THAT'S WHY, BEFORE YOU WORRY ABOUT ME...
THAT IS RIGHT.

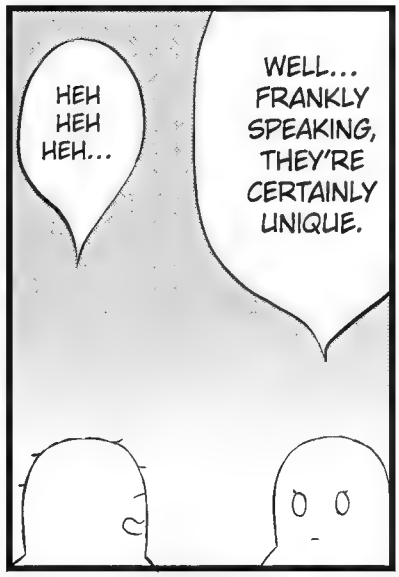
YEAH...

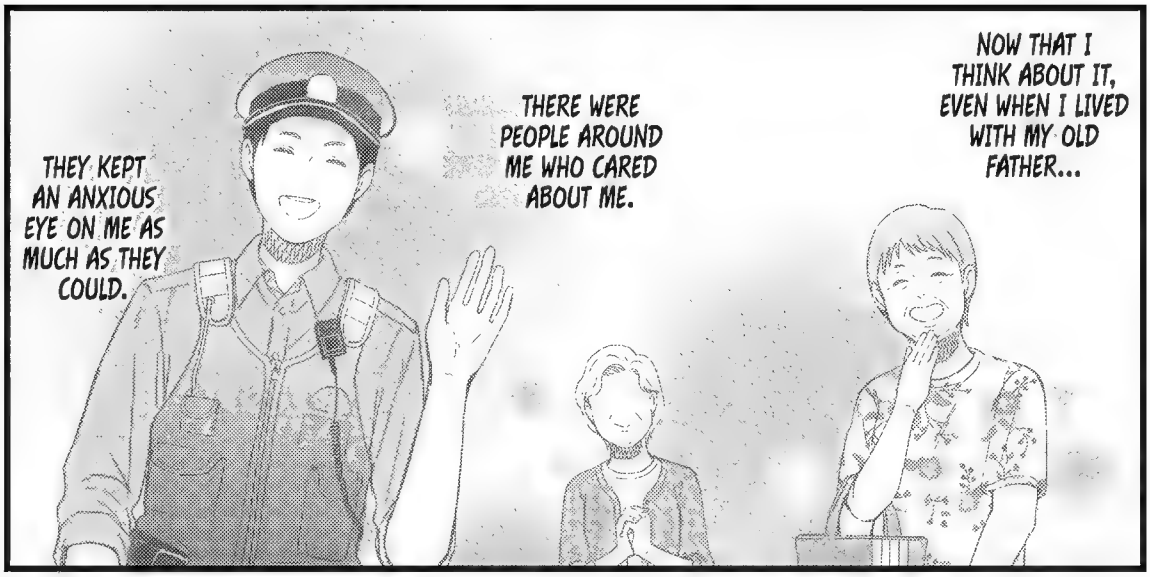
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN AND HEARD, AREN'T YOUR NEW PARENTS GOOD PEOPLE?
ISN'T IT DIFFERENT NOW?
TRUE, YOU HAD SUCH A HARD TIME BEFORE THAT YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T AFFORD TO THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS. BUT...



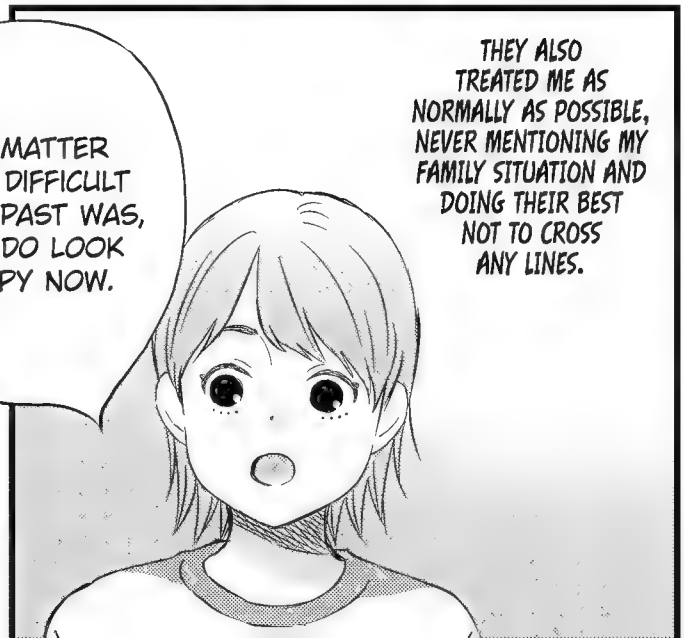

THEY EVEN ADOPTED MY SISTER. I DON'T THINK ANYONE ELSE WOULD DO THE SAME.
OTHERWISE THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE ADOPTED A BIG KID LIKE ME WHO WASN'T EVEN CUTE OR RELATED TO THEM.
I THINK BOTH FATHER AND MOTHER ARE REALLY AMAZING.
Bio Warrior

...I'VE NEVER FELT A TRUE CONNECTION WITH MY BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, BUT I THINK I MIGHT WITH THIS WONDERFUL COUPLE OF STRANGERS.
HA HA HA! THAT'S GOOD.


WELL... FRANKLY SPEAKING, THEY'RE CERTAINLY UNIQUE.
HEH HEH HEH...


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, EVEN WHEN I LIVED WITH MY OLD FATHER...
THERE WERE PEOPLE AROUND ME WHO CARED ABOUT ME.
THEY KEPT AN ANXIOUS EYE ON ME AS MUCH AS THEY COULD.

YEAH... I THINK I'M HAPPY. I DO THINK THAT, BUT...


NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT YOUR PAST WAS, YOU DO LOOK HAPPY NOW.
THEY ALSO TREATED ME AS NORMALLY AS POSSIBLE, NEVER MENTIONING MY FAMILY SITUATION AND DOING THEIR BEST NOT TO CROSS ANY LINES.

YOU HAVEN'T DEVELOPED YOUR ABILITY TO FEEL HAPPY!
HUH?!

THAT'S BECAUSE...

I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY...
EVEN SO, THERE'S A CHANCE I'LL MAKE SOMEONE ELSE MISERABLE AGAIN.
...

TRY THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY.
C'MON, C'MON! LET'S RAISE YOUR HAPPINESS LEVEL!
UHH...

YOU SOUND LIKE ONE OF THOSE MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS AT A "HARNESS YOUR POWER" SEMINAR, OOSAWA-SAN.
YOU CAN DO IT! FEEL THE HAPPINESS, JUN!
TRUST ME! THIS IS NO PYRAMID SCHEME!

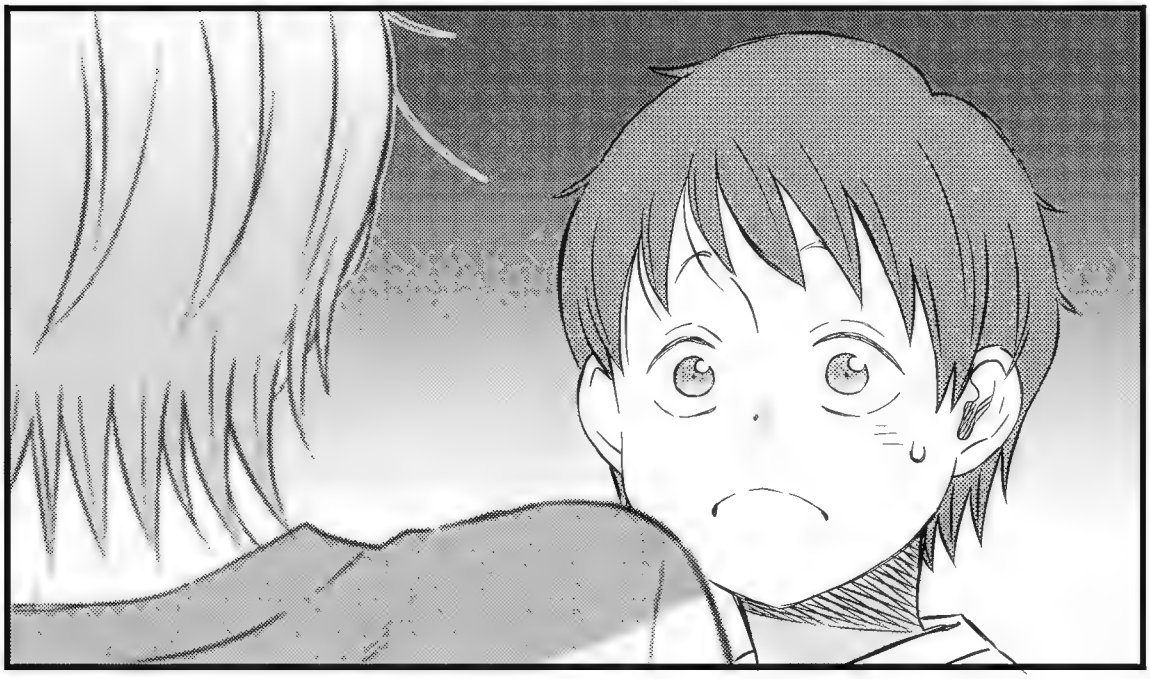
NICE... VERY NICE! I'LL JOIN YOU NEXT TIME YOU DO.
HAVING A SNACK AT A NEARBY TAKOYAKI SHOP...

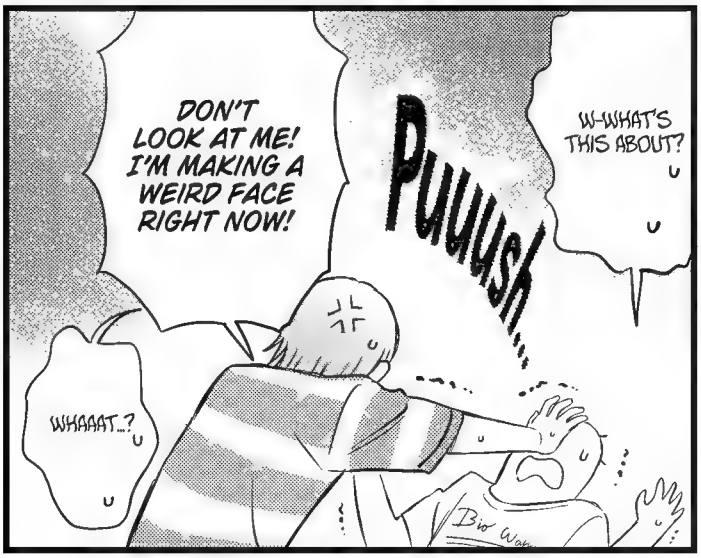
GOOD. YOU SHOULD KEEP PLAYING SOCCER IN HIGH SCHOOL, TOO.
SOCCER?

GOING OUT WITH MY FAMILY MAKES ME HAPPY.
SPENDING TIME WITH MY FRIENDS, EVEN IF IT'S JUST CHATTING ABOUT SILLY THINGS, ALSO MAKES ME HAPPY.
GOOD. YOU'RE DOING GOOD!
FEELING HAPPY ABOUT SUCH ORDINARY THINGS SHOWS THAT YOU'RE MAKING MORE ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR HAPPINESS!

ALSO, OOSAWA-SAN...

BEING WITH YOU MAKES ME HAPPY.
Bio Warrior

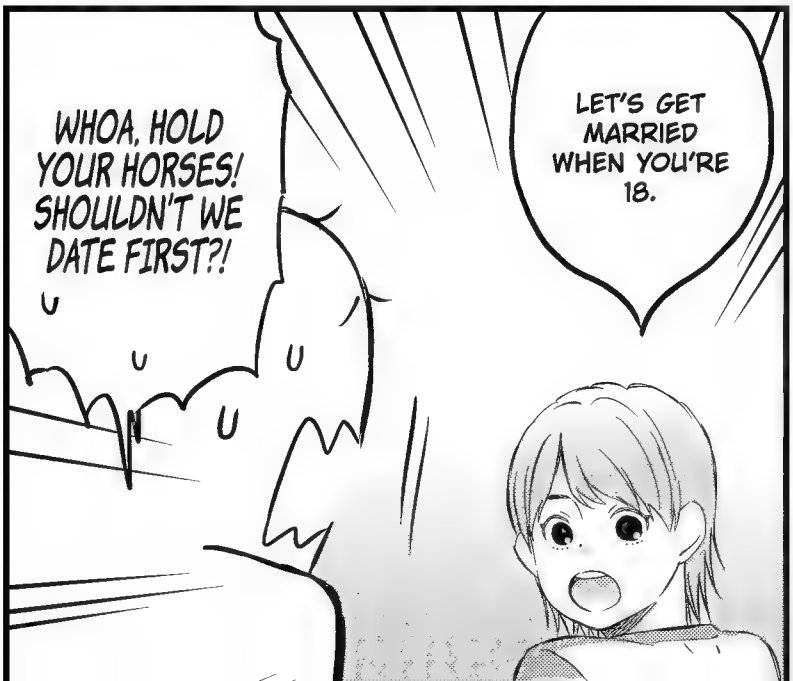



DON'T LOOK AT ME! I'M MAKING A WEIRD FACE RIGHT NOW!
Puuush
W-WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
WHAAAT...?

OW!
SLAP!

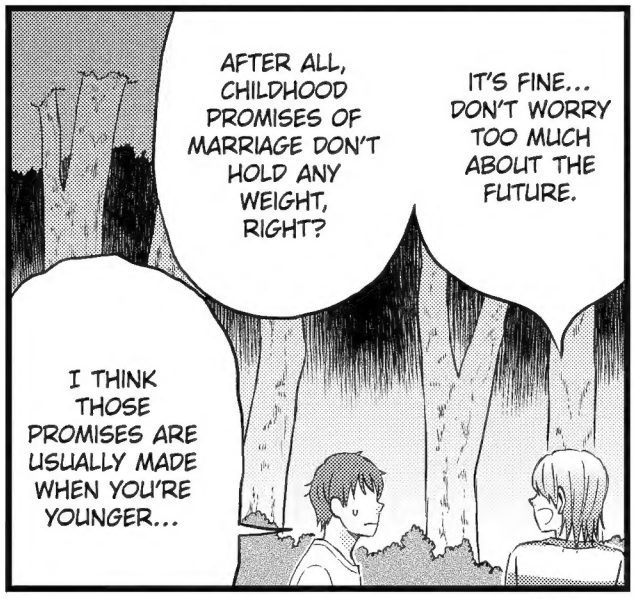
I WAS STILL VERY SURPRISED, THOUGH...
I'VE BEEN DROPPING HINTS FOR A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T I? MY CONFESSION DIDN'T COME OUT OF NOWHERE!

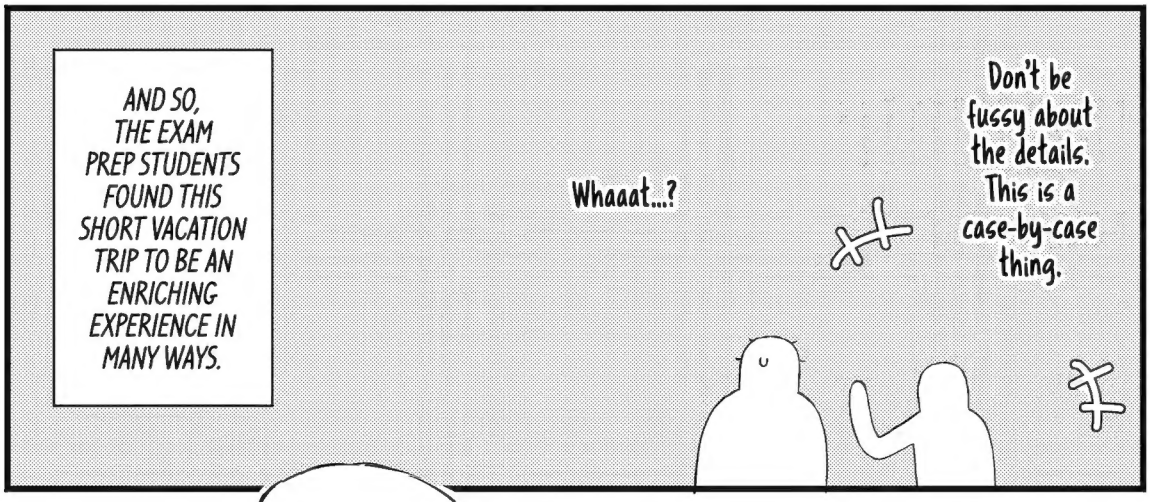
BUT EARLIER YOU SAID A SIMILAR THING TO ME...
Let's go back!!
THAT KIND OF SURPRISE ATTACK ISN'T GOOD FOR MY HEART!

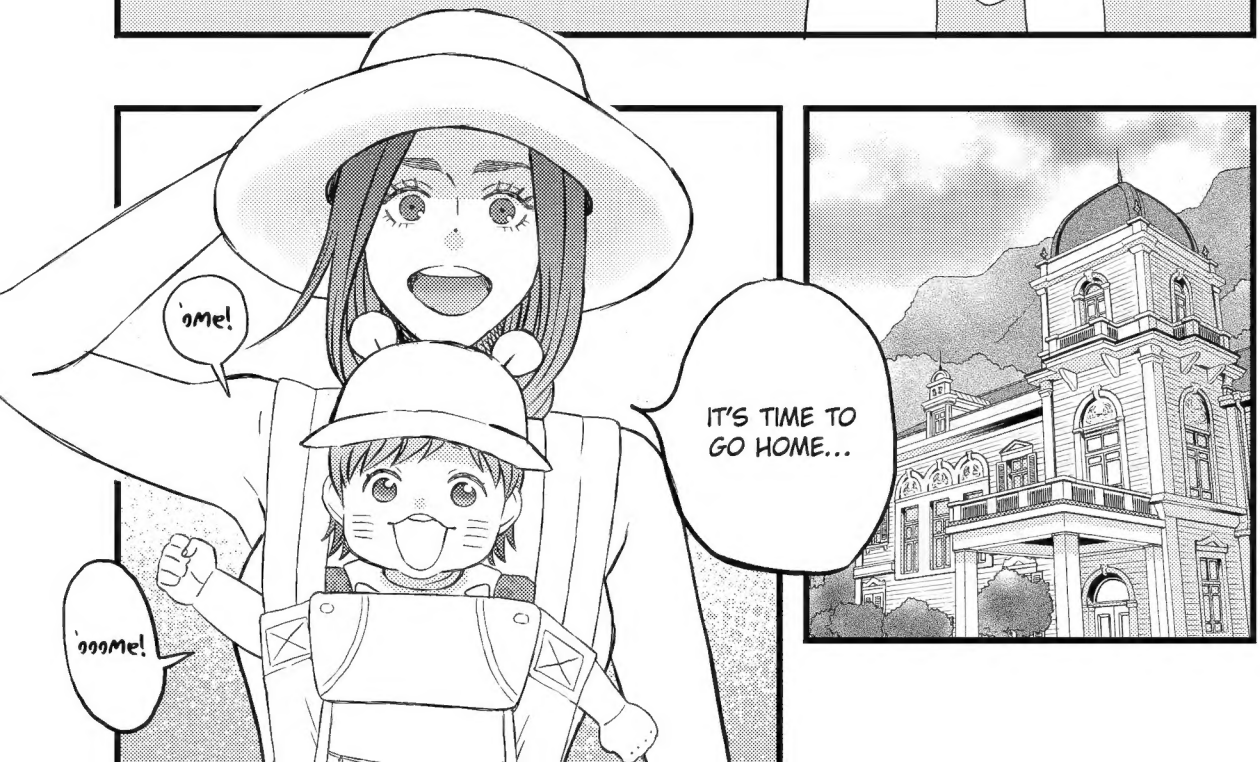

WHOA, HOLD YOUR HORSES! SHOULDN'T WE DATE FIRST?!
LET'S GET MARRIED WHEN YOU'RE 18.

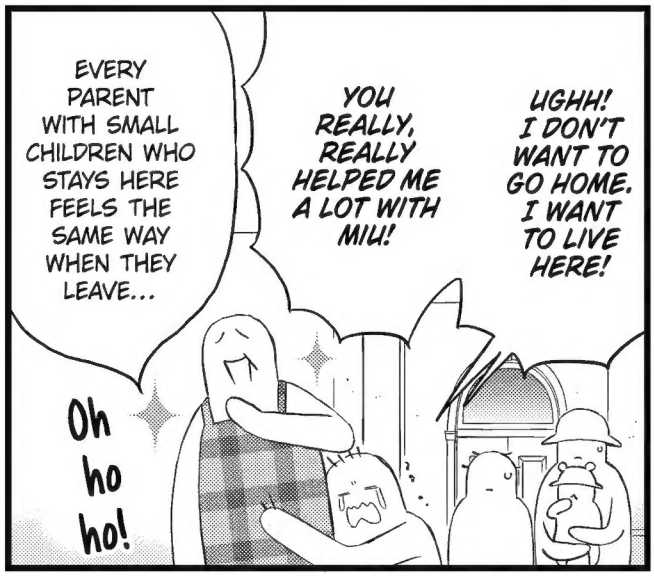
GEEZ... THEN, IF THE FEELINGS ARE MUTUAL...

DOESN'T THAT GO AGAINST WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER?
I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPIER THAN YOU ARE NOW, JUN!
About it being an "arrogant" mindset...

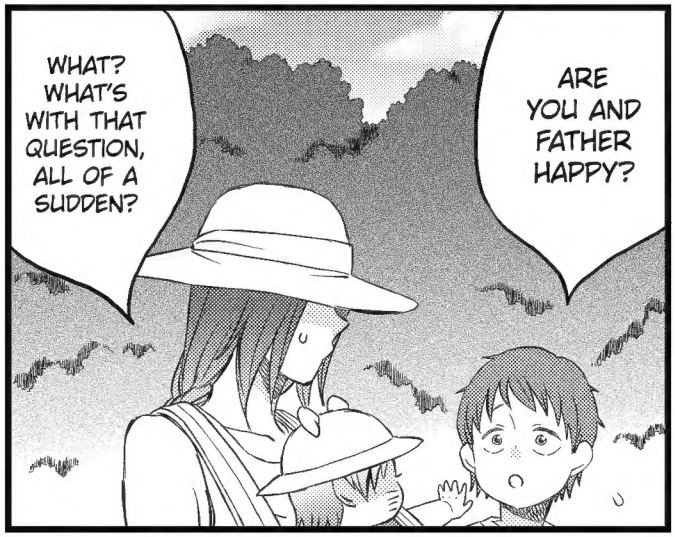

AFTER ALL, CHILDHOOD PROMISES OF MARRIAGE DON'T HOLD ANY WEIGHT, RIGHT?
IT'S FINE... DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THE FUTURE.
I THINK THOSE PROMISES ARE USUALLY MADE WHEN YOU'RE YOUNGER...

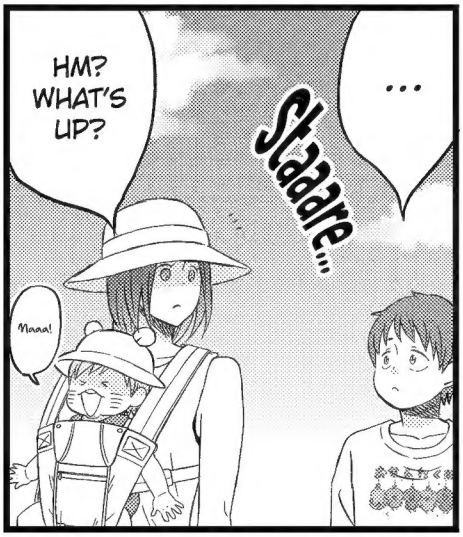

AND SO, THE EXAM PREP STUDENTS FOUND THIS SHORT VACATION TRIP TO BE AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE IN MANY WAYS.
Whaaat...?
Don't be fussy about the details. This is a case-by-case thing.

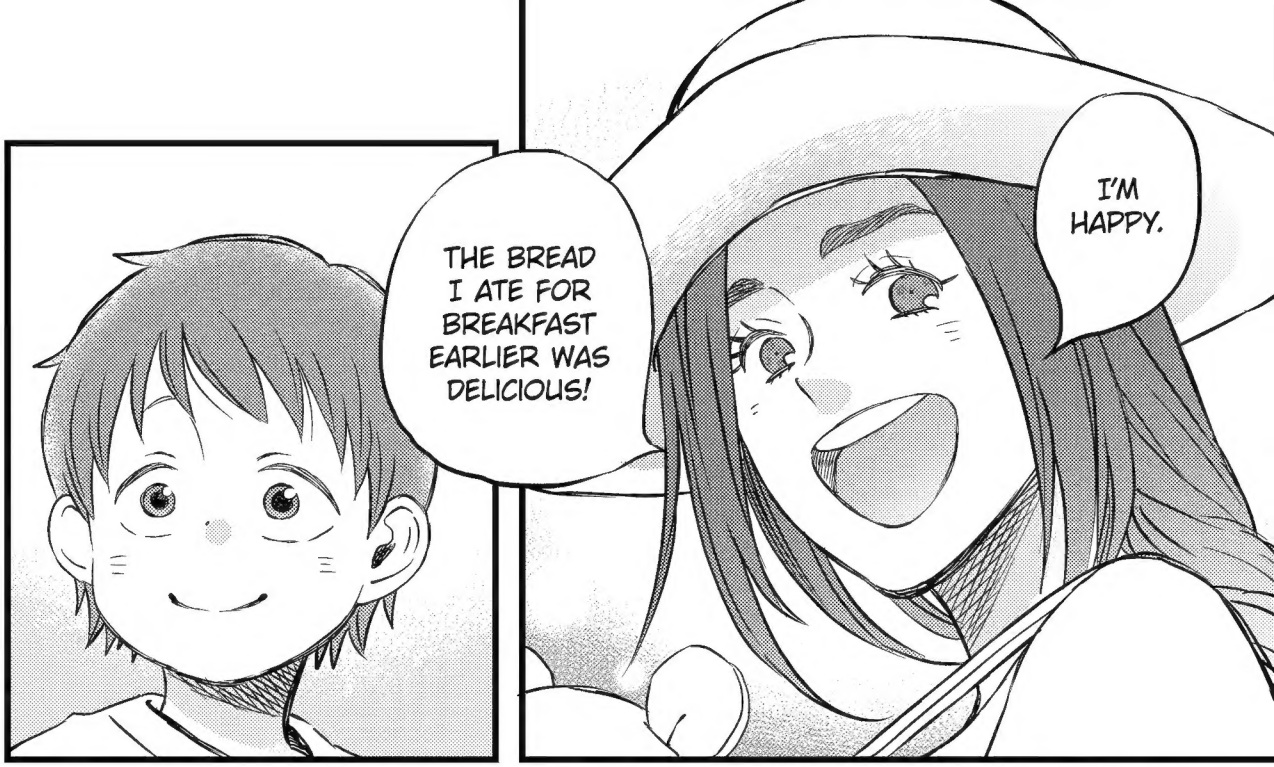

IT'S TIME TO GO HOME...
ome!
oooome!

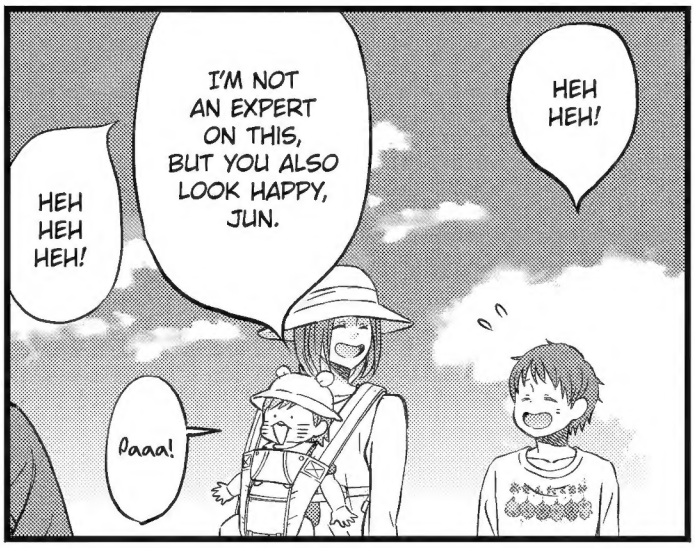


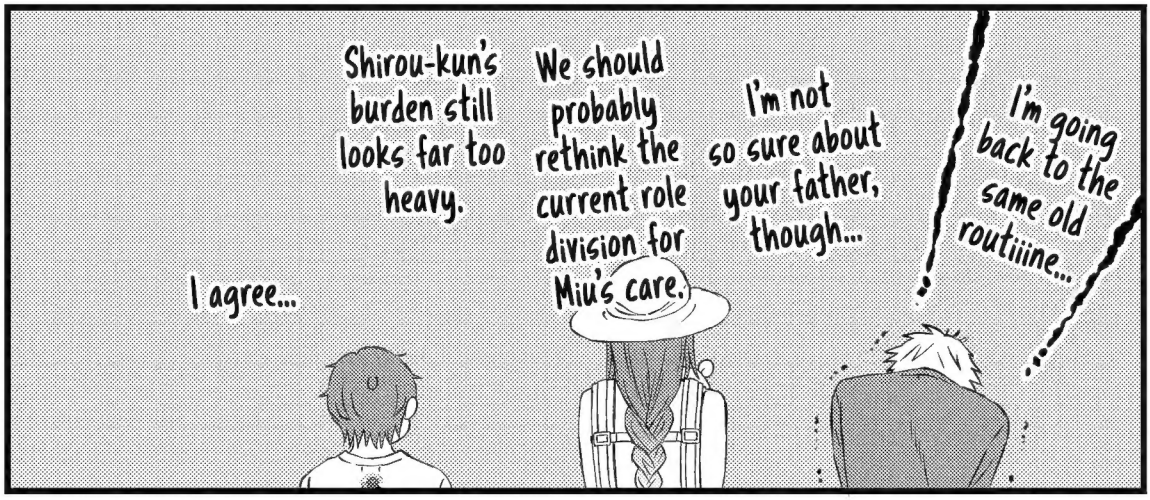
WAITING FOR THE BOAT TO ARRIVE.






THE BREAD I ATE FOR BREAKFAST EARLIER WAS DELICIOUS!
I'M HAPPY.


HEH HEH!
I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON THIS, BUT YOU ALSO LOOK HAPPY, JUN.
HEH HEH HEH!
Paaa!


Shirou-kun's burden still looks far too heavy.
We should probably rethink the current role division for Miu's care.
I'm not so sure about your father, though...
I'm going back to the same old routiiine...
I agree...